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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AFRICA.

No plague at Magude, Lourenço Marques.

LOURENÇO MARQUES, AFRICA, *January 21, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to refer to my dispatch No. 218 of November 19, 1901, in relation to the plague, and to advise you that the secretary-general of Mozambique has just written to me as follows:

"In addition to the circular of this general office, No. 57 of November 18, last year, I have the honor to communicate to you by order of his excellency, counsellor government-general, that seeing that there has not been a single case of plague in Magude since the 15th of last month, and considering that the sanitary service there is conducted in a manner to cause us not to expect to hear, in the future, of more cases of the plague, the board of health of the district of Lourenço Marques, at a meeting on the 8th instant, has decided to issue clean bills of health without any observations whatever."

Respectfully,

W. STANLEY HOLLIS,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

CHINA.

Reports from Hongkong.

HONGKONG, CHINA, *January 27, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended January 25, 1902. Nine vessels were inspected during the week, 536 individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 560 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam. There were 2 rejections because of fever. I also inclose under same cover a clipping from the Hongkong Daily Telegram, containing the recommendations of Professor Simpson, a sanitary expert from Calcutta, at present investigating the sanitary needs of the city at the instance of the local government, with reference to more successfully meeting the annual plague epidemic.

But 1 case of communicable disease was reported in the colony during the week, a case of diphtheria occurring in the city of Victoria.

Thus far this year there has been but 1 case of plague with 1 death. For the same period last year there were 7 cases and 7 deaths.

The mortality returns for the month of December, 1901, show 573 deaths from all causes, corresponding to an annual death rate of 23.2 per 1,000, excluding the army and navy. The death rate among the British and foreign population was 22.5 per 1,000, among the Chinese land population 23.4 per 1,000, and among the boat population 22 per 1,000. Of the total number of deaths, 3 were due to enteric fever, 1 to dengue, 14 to diarrhea, 4 to dysentery, and 2 to bubonic plague. Fifty-nine were due to malaria, 38 to beriberi, 48 to general tuberculosis, 47 to bronchitis, 41 to pneumonia, and 70 to phthisis.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.